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care of itself generally. A few years after I endeavored to introduce the improved "Cater" hollyhocks from England. They did remarkably well the first year, but the next were attacked by a small fungus which destroyed the leaves almost as fast as they appeared; and it was with difficulty they could be had to retain strength enough to flower at all. Finally, they were all destroyed before flowering, as were the common single ones in the gardens. Since the discovery in England that *Puccinia malvacearum* causes a disease like this, I have endeavored to find a specimen in order to identify the species, but I have failed, as the whole race of hollyhock about here seems to have disappeared.—THOMAS MEEHAN.

ZOOLOGY.

OPORORNIS FORMOSUS BREEDING IN EASTERN NEW YORK.—A few days ago, while out collecting with a friend, we were attracted by the alarm note of a bird, which he shot, and it proved to be a male of the Kentucky warbler. In passing out of the woods, which were overgrown with ferns and other perennials, we started a female from the ground, and after a careful search we found the nest, which was slightly elevated from the ground, composed of dry chestnut leaves and coarse grass, and lined with horse hair. The eggs, which were three in number, were white, thickly marked with small reddish-brown spots on the larger end. The nest was scarcely more than twenty feet from the public road. As I have not heard of its nest being found before in New York, I thought it might possibly be interesting to some of your readers. —A. K. FISHER, *Sing Sing*, *N. Y.*, *June* 19, 1875.

THE PURPLE GALLINULE.—A fine specimen of the Purple Gallinule, was shot at "Henry's Pond," "South End" Rockport, Mass., on April 12th, by Mr. Robert Wendel.—G. P. WHITMAN.

CALOPTENUS SPRETUS IN MASSACHUSETTS.—Specimens not differing in any appreciable respect on comparison with Californian examples occurred in September at Amherst, Mass.—A. S. PACKARD, Jr.

GEOLOGY.

INTERESTING FOSSILS FROM ILLINOIS.—At a recent meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Professor Cope stated that he had recently received from Mr. John Collett, of the Geological Survey of Indiana, a number of vertebrate remains from some point in Illinois. The specimens were taken from a blackish shale and consist of separate vertebræ, and other parts of the skeleton, often in a fragmentary condition. Although the absence of information as to the mutual relations of the pieces renders the identification difficult, yet the interest attaching to them, in consequence of their peculiar forms and the locality of their discovery, renders it important to determine their zoological position. Mr. Collett informed Prof. Cope that all the specimens were found near together and at the same horizon.

A remarkable peculiarity of all the vertebræ of the series is a longitudinal perforation of the centrum, a character which exists in the living lizards of the genus Sphenodon of New Zealand. The bones of the limbs and scapular arches are so decidedly reptilian, and so unlike those of any Batrachia with which we are yet acquainted, that they probably belong to the former class. They constitute the first definite indication of the existence of reptiles of the order *Rhynchocephalia*, in the Western Hemisphere. They belong to two species of two new genera which were named respectively, *Cricotus heteroclitus* and *Clepsydrops Collettii.*

Associated with these saurians were found teeth of two species of fishes, which are important in the evidence of the position of the beds in which they occur. One of these is a new species of Ceratodus and the other a Diplodus. The former genus is characteristic of the Triassic period in Europe, one species having been found in the Oolite. It still lives in North Australia. In both these respects the lizards mentioned present a remarkable coincidence. They also belong to the horizon of the Trias in Europe, and the only living species is found in New Zealand. Thus it would seem that a fragment of this fauna, so ancient in the Northern Hemisphere and so remarkably preserved in the Southern, has been brought to light in Illinois. It must be added, in reference to the geologic age of the fossils, that the genus Diplodus has not yet been discovered above the carboniferous, and that one genus of the family of lizards described belongs to the Permian in Germany. It cannot therefore be determined at present whether the formation in which they occur is Triassic or Permian.